

Colleagues,

The Department of Health EMS Bureau and the New Mexico EMS Licensing Commission realize that the pandemic has presented astounding challenges for New Mexico EMS Caregivers. One of the consequences has been the change in availability of continuing education opportunities. Additionally, the pandemic has required significant amounts of extra time worked covering shifts for colleagues and responding to the additional needs of our communities for many of our EMS agencies.

The New Mexico EMS Licensing Commission, in their November 17, 2020 meeting, unanimously approved the EMS Bureau to:

- Allow a medical director signature to suffice as attestation of clinical competence for NM licensed EMS caregivers working at a certified EMS agency or approved clinical facility, and
- **Relieve these affiliated, licensed caregivers of the need for attaining additional CE's for the renewal cycle ending March 31, 2021.**

The following will be instituted immediately by the EMS Bureau:

1. If your EMS License (EMD, EMD Instructor, EMS First Responder, EMT-Basic, EMT-Intermediate, and Paramedic) expires March 31, 2021, and you are an EMS caregiver for a volunteer, career, public or private EMS agency or approved clinical facility, you will not need a specific number of CE's or proof of CPR or ACLS to renew your license, **contingent on your EMS Medical Director providing a signature of attestation of your clinical competency.**
2. Renewal fees will be unchanged.
3. The criminal background check process has not been suspended or changed at this time. If you are "due" for your criminal background check, please plan on completing this as usual.

If you carry an EMS license, but do not currently work as an EMS caregiver and have no current medical director, your renewal process has not changed. Submit the required CE's and certification cards with your application, complete the criminal background check if required, and you will be issued a limited license as per normal practice. Special circumstances will be considered as necessary.

This waiver does not alleviate your responsibility to complete EMS agency or clinical facility required education and skills requirements. Also, if you are Nationally Registered and desire to keep that certification, you will need to submit the CE's according to their policies to maintain the National Registry certification.

If you have any questions, please email EMS Bureau Chief Kyle L. Thornton at [KyleL.Thornton@state.nm.us](mailto:KyleL.Thornton@state.nm.us), or EMS Program Manager Jacob Bennett at [Jacob.Bennett@state.nm.us](mailto:Jacob.Bennett@state.nm.us).

The EMS Bureau and New Mexico EMS Licensing Commission thank you for your service and devotion to your communities. Please be careful, and stay healthy.

Kyle L. Thornton, EMT-P  
NM DOH EMS Bureau Chief